Harold: Did you see this article?

6/27/67

Dear Dr. Halpern:

The article in ARGOSY was very interesting.

The photograph of President Kennedy's coat (ARGOSY, July, p. 112) confuses me. How could a shot entering at this point and fired allegedly from sixty feet above the northwestern corner of Elm and Houston, how could this bullet possibly exit "...at the neck-tie knot"?

Would this not seem more like a heart-shot (so described by the late Robert Kuark)? The Warren Commission which insists that this bullet entered at the "base of the neck" and exited "at the neck-tie knot" is giving it an extremely flat trajectory, considering its alleged point of origin, don't you think?

In addition, both the Warren Commission and CBS insist that the President's raised arm was responsible for what seems to be the incongruity between the picture of the bullet hole in the coat and the autopsy claim that the hole was at the base of the President's neck; yet this is obviously ridiculous. Zapruder photographs of the President taken at this time show no such violent gesture, but only a moderate salute. Surely if there was anytime during the entire tragic episode when the President's coat was "bunched" to a degree necessary to bring the material in the coat in line with the base of his neck, it was directly after the President had received the first shot in the front of his throat. We have all seen the pictures of his violent response at this time, with his hands ~~with~~ clutching at his throat and his shoulders hunched into a grotesque posture, well above the level of his hands, actually hunched up nearly to the level of his ears. This violent response would possibly raise the coat (bunch the material) so that the hole in the coat could conceivably be aligned with the alleged hole at the base of the neck. But it is ridiculous to assume that this occurred because the President was raising his right hand in a gentle wave.

So it is possible, I suppose, that the President received a throat wound first, on the reception of which he responded violently; the second bullet fired from behind would then enter his body at the base of the neck but leave in his coat a mark well down into the fabric. I certainly can think of no other explanation.

I surely would appreciate hearing your opinion on the trajectory of the back bullet. Could this bullet be fired from sixty feet above the northwestern corner of Elm and Houston (fired down towards the gentle slope leading to the underpass), enter at the "base of the neck" and still exit ~~fr~~ from the "neck-tie knot"? The Warren Commission autopsy doctors insist no bone or cartilage was struck.

Sincerely,
(Mrs.) Shirley Martin
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